Pitibable conditions of migrant labourers in urban areas

*380. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large sections of urban poor are migrant labourers, casual workers, self employed or child labourers;

(b) whether Government is also aware that living conditions of these unorganized sector workers are very poor due to low and irregular income, lack of social security, little regulation in work and absence of legal protection;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to provide them adequate housing, education to children and health care to women workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of labour and Employment has initiated several measures to improve the working & living conditions of these workers. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 provides for protection of the interests of Inter-State migrant workers. The Act also provides for payment of minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and equal wages for performing similar nature of work along with the local labourers. The Act stipulates journey allowance, including payment of wages during period of journey, displacement allowance, suitable residential accommodation, medical facilities free of charge, protective clothing. Various labour laws such as the Minimum Wages Act 1948; The Workmens' Compensation Act, 1923; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are applicable to unorganised workers, including casual labourers, self employed or child labourers. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana provides for assistance to the poor families living below the poverty line in rural areas for taking up self employment.

Apart from above, Janshree Bima Yojana which covers persons below the poverty line or marginally above the poverty line provides for life and death or disability cover. To provide health insurance cover the Government launched the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' (RSBY) for BPL families. RSBY was formulated keeping in view the requirements of migrant workers. This scheme has become operational from 1st April 2008. The worker and his family (a unit of five) are covered under the scheme. It provides for smart card based health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis. The scheme covers hospitalization expenses in case of maternity also. The beneficiary can avail the benefit in any empanelled hospital across the country. There is also provision of split card, enabling the beneficiary to split benefits into two. He can carry one card alongwith him to the place of work and leave the other with his family so that both can avail the benefit. However, the sum insured in both cards would be Rs. 30,000 only. The State Government have also been advised to cover construction workers, who constitute a large percentage of urban poor, under RSBY.

The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been expanded to cover all BPL citizens above the age of 65 years with effect from 19.11.2007.

The Government has enacted The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Lock-in-period on investment in Sectors with FDI Cap

2726. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since approved the minimum lock-in-period on investments in sectors with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap;

(b) if so, the details of the sectors selected;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;

(d) the measures adopted to check its impact on Indian financial market; and

(e) the time by when these rules are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per extant FDI policy, lock-in period FDI has been prescribed in the following sectors:

Sl. No.	Sector	FDI Cap and Approval required for FDI	Lock-in period	Details of FDI to be locked-in
1	Defence Industry sector (licensing production of arms and ammunitions)	26% (approval of FIPB/ Government)	Three years	Lock-in period would be applicable for transfer of equity from one foreign investor to another foreign investor (including NRIs & OCBs with 60% or more NRI stake) and such transfer would be subject to prior approval of the FIPB and the Government.
2	Construction Development projects, including housing, commercial premises, resorts, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, townships	100% (Automatic Route)	Three years	Original investment to be locked-in for three years (except for SEZs and establishment and operation of hotels and hospitals). However the investor may be permitted to exit earlier with prior approval of the Government through the FIPB.